

-59-

REMARKS

The following claims have been cancelled:

1-3, 10-15, 17-20, 27-34, 51-53, 55, 59-61, 64-65, 144, 149, 155, 159-161, 165, 180, 187-189, 198, 201, 205-209, and 216-221.

The following claims have been amended:

4-9, 16, 21, 23-24, 54, 56-58, 62-63, 66, 68-69, 83, 89, 94, 109, 115, 119, 129, 139, 145-148, 150-152, 154, 156-158, 162-164, 166-171, 173-174, 181-182, 184-186, 190, 199-200, 202-203, and 210-212.

The following claims are pending:

4-9, 16, 21-26, 36-38, 44-47, 49-50, 54, 56-58, 62-63, 66-71, 83-99, 109-123, 129-133, 139-143, 145-148, 150-154, 156-158, 162-164, 166-174, 176, 178-179, 181-186, 190-197, 199-200, 202-204, 210-215.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 10-15, 30-31, 51-53, 55, 59-61, 64-65, 144, 149, 155, 180, 187-189, 198, 201, 205-209, and 216-221 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Luzeski et al, US Patent 6,404,762. This rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims. The cancellation of these claims is intended to advance this application toward allowance expeditiously. Applicant does not acquiesce to the view in the Office Action regarding the applicability of Luzeski et al. to the cancelled claims. Applicant is reserving the right to re-introduce these and perhaps other claims in a separate application at a later time.

The remaining claims were indicated to be allowable if re-written in independent form as might be required. This action has been taken herein. Thus, it is believed that all the currently pending claims of this application are now allowable.

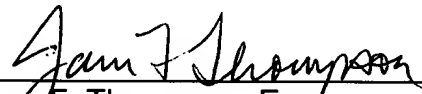
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicants' attorney to resolve any issues that may be remaining.

-60-

Applicant has included herewith payment of the necessary fee for a 2-month extension of time, as well as payment for additional independent claims resulting from this amendment. If the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office deems any other fee necessary for this amendment, such fee may be charged to the account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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